

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF OFFICIALS OF THE KLAMATH TRIBE

JUNE 18, 1951.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. MORRIS, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 3095]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3095) to authorize payment of salaries and expenses of officials of the Klamath Tribe, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

Page 1, line 9, strike out the words "to be".

Page 1, line 10, after the word "Council", insert a comma.

Page 1, line 11, after the word "authority", insert the following:
"; and approved by the Secretary of the Interior".

Page 2, lines 2 and 3, strike out the words "Commissioner of Indian Affairs" and insert in lieu thereof the following: "Secretary of the Interior".

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

The bill authorizes the Klamath Tribe, Oregon, to expend, without limitation as to amount, their tribal funds for salaries and expenses of the Klamath tribal officials or representatives, at rates designated in advance by the Klamath General Council and approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

The act of May 15, 1945 (59 Stat. 167), permits such an expenditure of the tribal funds but limits the amount of such expenditure to \$15,000 per annum. Primarily, the bill overcomes this limitation.

Certain members of the Klamath Tribe, the attorney for the Klamath Tribe, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs appeared before the committee in support of this legislation.

No expenditure of Federal funds is or will be required by the enactment of this legislation.

Testimony before the committee revealed the present limitation on tribal fund expenditure for salaries and expenses to be a handicap for proper conduct of tribal affairs. An example of the nature of the expenses made from the tribal funds is that related to the expenses incurred by meetings of the Klamath General Council. The general council meetings are attended by all tribal members and is in the nature of the town hall meeting. The tribe provides bus transportation to and from meetings for all members (including children) desiring such, and while at the meetings meals are provided at tribal expense. Further, the officials of the tribe are paid on a per diem basis while attending committee meetings or while in Washington, D. C., on official business.

On March 8, 1951, the Klamath Tribe had approximately \$2,190,000 in tribal funds on deposit in the United States Treasury. It is from such fund that expenditures are made for salaries and expenses as provided for by this legislation.

The favorable report of the Department of the Interior reads as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 16, 1951.

HON. JOHN R. MURDOCK,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. MURDOCK: Reference is made to your request for a report on H. R. 3095, a bill to authorize payment of salaries and expenses of officials of the Klamath Tribe.

I recommend the enactment of H. R. 3095, if it is amended as suggested in this report.

The object of this bill is to authorize, without limitation as to the amount, the expenditure of any unobligated tribal funds now on deposit or hereafter to be deposited to the credit of the Klamath Tribe in the United States Treasury for salaries and expenses of Klamath tribal officials or tribal representatives, other than the Klamath loan board, at rates or subject to limitations designated in advance by the Klamath General Council or any governing body to which the general council may delegate such authority.

The act of May 15, 1945 (59 Stat. 167), which is the present authority for expending tribal funds for the purposes mentioned above, vests in the Commissioner of Indian Affairs the authority to approve the rates of pay fixed by resolution of the Klamath General Council. In addition, that act limits the amount to be expended for salaries and expenses of tribal officials and representatives to not more than \$15,000 per annum.

I am in sympathy with the proposal to remove the limitation as to the amount to be expended but I believe that a safeguard against improvident expenditures should be provided by retaining an administrative check on the rates of pay, and on the total amount to be expended for council and delegation expenses in any fiscal year. I recommend, therefore, that in line 9, page 1, the words "to be" be deleted, that in line 10, page 1, a comma be inserted after "Council," and that in line 11, page 1, following the word "authority", there be inserted "and approved by the Secretary of the Interior." This would be in keeping with similar legislation authorizing expenditure of funds of other Indian tribes.

In order to make the bill fully consistent with the organizational pattern for the Department of the Interior established by Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950, which became effective on May 24, 1950, I recommend that at page 2, lines 2 and 3, the words "Commissioner of Indian Affairs" be deleted and the words "Secretary of the Interior" be inserted in lieu thereof.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

MASTIN G. WHITE,
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs favorably reports and urges the passage of this legislation, as amended.